# SHEAFF'S DEPARTMENT -

DATE: October 15, 2002

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

FROM:

RICHARD L. CASTRO, COMMANDER

TRAINING DIVISION

TO: ROBERT L. BINKLEY, CAPTAIN

FILE:

INDUSTRY STATION

SUBJECT:

EXECUTIVE FORCE REVIEW COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

HIT SHOOTING, OCTOBER 6, 2001, IAB REVIEW #2047138

The purpose of this memo is to notify you of the review committee's findings and recommendations concerning the use of force incident which occurred on October 6, 2001.

The Committee met on October 12, 2002, and consisted of myself, Commander David Betkey (Commander of the Department) and Commander William McSweeney (Office of the UnderSheriff). The Committee determined that the use of force by Deputies Sean Heieck # and Raye Morales # was within Department policy. Please advise the deputies of this finding.

The Committee further directed the Unit Commander conduct a debriefing with the involved personnel with an emphasis on "soft clothes" uniform and identification procedures.

RLC:KRK:kk

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### OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING FORM

#### INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

#### **EXHIBITS A THROUGH L**

- A Homicide Bureau's completed report of the shooting incident under File Number 001-15399-1462-055
- B Three (3) video tapes of interviews conducted by Homicide investigators
- C Photographs of "Miss Kitty's" driveway
- Photographs of "Miss Kitty's entrance and parking lot
- E Photographs of the emergency exit of "Miss Kitty's"
- F Photographs of the westbound view of Valley Boulevard
- G Photographs of the 76 Gas Station
- H Photographs of the Chevron Station and damage to signs
- I Photographs of the position undercover van
- J Photographs of the position of the suspect
- K Photographs of suspect's gun
- L Photographs of the bullet holes in the van

### MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS

Industry Station In-Service for E.M. Shift 10-06-01 Training Records for all deputies involved Range Qualification records for all deputies involved Work History on Involved Deputies

# Los A reles County Sheriff's Deprement Officer Involved Shooting

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# Officer Involved Shooting

URN: 001-15399-1462-055

Method			T	ype of Injury	Body Part i	Injured
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### FORCE APPLIED (one code per block)

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# Officer Involved Shooting Involved Employee Information

URN: 001-15399-1462-055

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	A Logic A Alexander	Samuel Carlot	19- 10-25	Involved Employee	an relative are not be a first		
1	Employee #	Last Name HEIECK			First Name SEAN	M.I. A.	
	Sex: Race: W	Rank DEPUT	-	Unit Assignment: INDUSTRY STATION	Work Assignment (Unit #, Mo	dule, etc.): 143E	
	ShiftTime (circle only one):  EM PM Day	ShiftType (circle only one) Regular Overtime Off Dut		Intoxication/Drug Usage?	Substance Used:		
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	Certified with Weapon Used	Patrol Certificat	ion?	Certification Unit:	Prior Shootings?	nber of Prior Shootings:	
	Field Training Officer Emp #	Last Name			First Name	M.I.	
	Field Training Officer Emp #	Last Name			First Name	M.L.	
2	Employee #	Last Name MORALES	S		First Name RAYE	M.L. D.	
	Sex: Race: H	Rank		Unit Assignment: INDUSTRY STATION	Work Assignment (Unit #, Mo		
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	Hospital Admission?	Hospital Name:		Coroner Case?	Coroner Case #	Interviewed?	
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	Field Training Officer Emp #-	Last Name			First Name	M.I.	
	Field Training Officer Emp #	Last Name			First Name	M.L.	
	Employee #	Last Name			First Name	M.L.	
	Sex: Race:	Rank		Unit Assignment:	Work Assignment (Unit #, Mod	Jule, etc.):	
3	ShiftTime (circle only one); EM PM Day	ShiftType (circle only one): Regular Overtime Off Duty		Intoxication/Drug Usage?	Substance Used:		
	Hospital Admission?	Hospital Name:		Coroner Case?	Coroner Case #	Interviewed?	
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7	Range Qualification Date:		PPC Qu	alification Date:	Laser Training Date:		
	Certified with Weapon Used?	Patrol Certification	on?	Certification Unit:	Prior Shootings? Num	ber of Prior Shootings:	
F	Field Training Officer Emp #	Last Name			First Name	M.I.	
Ī	Field Training Officer Emp #	Last Name			First Name	M.I.	

## Officer Involved Shooting Suspect Information

Involved Shooting URN: 001-15399-1462-055

Page

M.I. Zip Code:		
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# SUPPLEMEN AL NON-EMPLOYE WITNESSES Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

5 of 5 Page Non-Employee Witnesses Last Name First Name M.I Street Address Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Last Name First Name M.I. Home Ph Street Address Zip Code Work Ph Last Name First Name M.L. Street Address Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph M.I. Last Name First Name Street Address Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Last Name First Name M.I. Home Ph Street Address Zip Code Work Ph First Name M.L. Last Name Street Address Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Last Name First Name M.I. Street Address Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Last Name First Name M.I. Zip Code Home Ph Street Address Work Ph M.I. Last Name First Name Street Address Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Last Name First Name M.L Street Address Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Last Name First Name M.L. Street Address Zip Code Home Ph Work Ph Last Name M.L First Name Street Address Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Last Name First Name M.I. Street Address Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Last Name First Name M.I. Street Address Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Last Name First Name M.I. Home Ph Street Address Work Ph Zip Code First Name Last Name M.I. Street Address Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE BUREAU OF FRAUD AND CORRUPTION PROSECUTIONS JUSTICE SYSTEM INTEGRITY DIVISION

STEVE COOLEY • District Attorney
CURT LIVESAY• Chief Deputy District Attorney
PETER BOZANICH • Assistant District Attorney

DAVID H. GUTHMAN . Director

June 14, 2002

Captain Frank Merriman
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Homicide Bureau
5747 Rickenbacker Road
Commerce, California 90040

Dear Captain Merriman:

Re:

J.S.I.D. File # 01-0968

L.A.S.D. File # 001-15399-1462-055

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has completed its review of the October 6, 2001, fatal shooting of Ernest Guillen by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies Sean Heieck and Raye David Morales. We have concluded that Deputies Heieck and Morales acted lawfully in self-defense and the defense of others.

The following analysis is based on Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau reports of the incident totaling 188 pages, an examination of the shooting scene and autopsy photographs related to the shooting, the statements of witnesses at the scene, and

our own Bureau of Investigation reports. Deputies Heieck and Morales both gave voluntary statements.

The District Attorney's Command Center was notified of this incident on October 6, 2001 at 1:30 a.m. Assistant Head Deputy John Gilligan and District Attorney Senior Investigator responded immediately to the scene at 13107 Valley Boulevard, in the City of Industry. We were given a briefing and a "walk-through" of the scene by Los Angeles Sheriff's Detective Chris Brackpool.

#### **FACTUAL ANALYSIS**

On Saturday, October 6, 2001, Deputies Morales and Heieck were part of a team of nineteen deputies, two sergeants and a lieutenant who were working a gang suppression detail in the City of Industry. At approximately 1:00 a.m., Morales and Heieck were in



Captain Frank Merrim<sup>2</sup>
June 14, 2002

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the west parking lot of Miss Kitty's bar on Valley Boulevard in the City of Industry. They were in an unmarked observation van and were wearing plain clothes.

The two deputies observed members of the Mongols motorcycle gang loitering outside the club. They made radio contact with other members of their team who then began moving towards the group of Mongols. One of the individuals ran into the bar when deputies approached him. Two other deputies followed the suspect into the bar.

Shortly after the deputies entered the building, Heieck and Morales observed a fire door on the side of the building open. A young Hispanic male, later identified as Ernest Guillen, came out the door and ran first south and then north on Valley Boulevard.

The two deputies believed that he was running because he was involved in criminal activity. They followed him in their van, identified themselves as deputies and ordered him to stop. Guillen ignored the orders of the deputies.

As Guillen ran in front of Millers Liquor at 13107 Valley Boulevard, he turned and pointed what appeared to be a semi-automatic pistol directly at the deputies. At that point, the van stopped and both deputies fired their 9-millimeter Beretta pistols at him. Guillen was struck with several rounds and fell to the ground fatally wounded.

Paramedics arrived a few minutes later and pronounced Guillen dead at the scene. A Walther .380 semi-automatic pistol was found next to his body. Guillen was identified by witnesses inside Miss Kitty's. Guillen was a Lomas gang member with two prior prison commitments for robbery and an outstanding arrest warrant for murder in case number GA040566.

Methamphetamine and a stolen Ruger 9-millimeter pistol were found in Guillen's vehicle.

An autopsy was performed on October 7, 2001 by Deputy Medical Examiner Raffia Djabourian. The cause of death was determined to be multiple gunshot wounds. Guillen was struck by eleven rounds, four of which caused rapidly fatal wounds. There was no soot or stippling at any of the entry wounds. The 9-millimeter Berettas carried by Heieck and Morales were collected. Based on the rounds remaining in each weapon and the casings and projectiles recovered at the scene, it appears that Deputy Heieck fired ten rounds and Deputy Morales fired two rounds.

Civilian witness was interviewed. She is a said at Miss Kittys.

said that at the time the deputies were coming into Miss Kitty's, Guillen, who she knew as "Listo", approached her and said, "I gotta leave, I gotta get out of here!" said she helped him by taking him to an emergency exit on the west side of the building. She said she opened the door and Guillen ran out. She confirmed that "Listo" was an admitted Lomas gang member



Captain Frank Merrimair June 14, 2002 Page 3

#### CONCLUSION

California law permits the use of deadly force in self-defense or in the defense of others if the person claiming the right to use self-defense actually and reasonably believed (1) that he or she or the person that he or she was defending, was in imminent danger of death or great bodily injury; and (2) that it was necessary under the circumstances to use deadly force to avoid such death or great bodily injury.

Based on what they observed, Deputies Heiek and Morales were correct in attempting to detain Guillen as he fled from the deputies who were entering Miss Kitty's. What they did not know was that they were attempting to detain a potential third strike candidate who had an outstanding murder warrant, a gun on his person, and another gun and illegal drugs in his car.

Both deputies' actions were clearly justifiable under the law. When Heieck and Morales fired, it was in response to Guillen pointing a semi-automatic pistol at them. The deputies had already identified themselves as police officers and ordered Guillen to stop. The deputies had no alternatives to the use of deadly force at that time.

From the information presented to this office by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and our own investigation, the evidence establishes that Deputies Heieck and Morales acted reasonably and lawfully. Based on this conclusion, we are closing our file and will take no further action in this matter.

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Very truly Yours,

STEVE COOLEY
District Attorney

JOHN FRANCIS GILLIGAN

Assistant Head Deputy

(213) 974-7435

c: Deputy Sean Heieck #

Deputy Raye David Morales #